



Township of Vernon

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Vernon, New Jersey 07462-0340

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May 7, 2008

Mr. Benjamin L. Spinelli, Executive Director
Department of Community Affairs
Office of Smart Growth
101 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 204
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0204

Dear Mr. Spinelli,

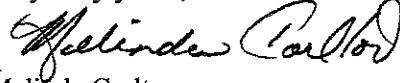
The Vernon Township Council received its Town Center Designation on July 16, 2003 as approved by the New Jersey State Planning Commission. Since then the Township has endeavored to fulfill the conditions delineated in its Planning Implementation Agenda (PIA). To date, two PIA status reports (10/7/04 and 11/9/06) have been submitted. Vernon Township has successfully pursued the intent of the PIA.

The Township requests a pre-petition meeting with the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth to determine the next steps necessary to achieve Plan Endorsement approval. It is Vernon's intent to achieve Plan Endorsement.

Attached please find a statement of goals which this Township intends to promote to balance its growth and protect the environs in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Also enclosed, are CD's which include our Master Plan, amendments and related planning documents for your review.

Vernon Township applauds the State's efforts to develop a meaningful planning process through an endorsement procedure. Vernon looks forward to working with your office in achieving Plan Endorsement for our Township.

Very truly yours,


Melinda Carlton
Township Manager

Attachments: Statement of Goals
CD's (4)

Cc: Township Council
Dennis Murray, Acting Municipal Clerk
Fred Suljic, Planner
Lou Kneip, Director of Planning & Development
File

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OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH

Plan Endorsement Goals

The Vernon Township Council promotes the following goals in the development of a comprehensive growth management program as part of a Plan Endorsement approval:

- Concentrate growth into the designated Town Center and those growth corridors along RT 94 and RT 517 in the McAfee area where sewer facilities are existing.
- Maintain the characteristics of a rural and environmentally sensitive area while accommodating responsible economic growth.
- Enhance regional recreational and Township opportunities.
- Preserve large tract open space lands and farmland properties in the environs.
- Encourage mechanisms which conserve natural resources and permit resource-based tourism to flourish.
- Provide housing diversity for low income families and senior citizens.
- Encourage redevelopment parcel developers to provide for economic stability while preserving the environs.
- Promote linkage between open space and recreational activities by connecting the Town Center and environs via greenway corridors and a bikeway/trail system.
- Regionalize municipal, county and state activities which provide cost savings to the public.
- Encourage state investment in eco-tourism activities which promote Skylands/Highlands area of Vernon Township.
- Promote preservation of historic and cultural resources through cooperative partnerships between public and private entities.